

Remarks

In the Office Action mailed March 6, 2003:

1. The disclosure was objected to;
2. Claim 30 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2;
3. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9-11, 14-17 and 20-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,094,435 (Hoffman);
4. Claims 3-5, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hoffman; and
5. Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Hoffman and U.S. Patent No. 5,732,094 (Petersen).

I. Amendment to Disclosure

The disclosure has been amended to correct the noted informality.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

Claim 30 was amended to depend from claim 29 vice claim 28.

III. Hoffman (U.S. Patent No. 6,094,435)

At the time the subject matter of the present application was invented, Hoffman *et al.* and this application were commonly owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, Sun Microsystems, Inc. Therefore, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), Hoffman cannot be used as the basis for rejecting claims of the application under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). A Terminal Disclaimer over Hoffman will be submitted when the application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

IV. Selected Claims

1. **Claims 1-10**

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, which has been cancelled. As described above, the Hoffman reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Claim 5 was amended to depend from claim 1 vice claim 4. Claim 32 was added to correspond to the method of claim 1.

2. Claims 11-22, 24

Claims 11 and 24 have been amended to incorporate the previous subject matter of claim 12, which has been amended. As described above, the Hoffman reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 11 vice claim 12.

3. Claim 23

Claim 23 has been cancelled, without prejudice.

4. Claims 25-31

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), on the basis of Hoffman. As described above, the Hoffman reference is disqualified as 103 prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c). Therefore, claims 25-31 should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

No new matter has been added with the preceding amendments. It is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. If prosecution of this application may be facilitated through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 25, 2003

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